

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A derivative of azithromycin as base or in the form of an acid addition salt which is selected from the group of

3'-(*N,N*-didemethyl)-3'-*N*-formyl azithromycin formylazithromycin of formula 2;  
3'-*N*-demethyl 3'-*N*-formylazithromycin of formula 3;  
3'-ketoazithromycin of formula 4;  
3'-aminoazithromycin of formula 6;  
3'-de(dimethylamino)-3',4'-didehydroazithromycin of formula 7; and  
(3*R*,6*R*,8*R*,9*R*,10*S*,11*S*,12*R*)-11-[(2,6-dideoxy-3-*C*-methyl-3-*O*-methyl- $\alpha$ -~~*L*-ribo~~-hexopyranosyl)oxy]-2-[(1*R*,2*R*)-1,2-dihydroxy-1-methylbutyl]-8-hydroxy-3,4,6,8,10,12-hexamethyl-9-[(3,4,6-trideoxy-3-(dimethylamino)- $\beta$ -*D*-xylo-hexopyranosyl)oxy]-1-oxa-4-azacyclotridecan-13-one of formula 8.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising ~~at least one~~ the derivative of azithromycin according to claim 1.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 comprising a mixture of

- i) ~~at least one~~ the derivative of azithromycin according to claim 1; and
  - ii) any azithromycin base or salt in any crystalline, polymorphic or amorphous form,
- wherein the weight ratio of the at least one derivative described in i) and azithromycin as described in ii) is between 0.1 and 99.

Claims 4 – 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Original). A process for preparing 3'-(*N,N*-didemethyl)-3'-*N*-formylazithromycin of formula 2 comprising formylation of 3'-aminoazithromycin of formula 6.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). A process according to claim 6 wherein the ~~formulation~~ formylation of 3'-aminoazithromycin is carried out by using formic acetic anhydride.

Claims 8 – 17 (Cancelled).